predefined processing sequence which is initiated by the user by contacting the associated virtual region.

42. A multi-tiered computing system comprising:

a first computing tier having a master server computer, the master server coupled to a master database of master data records;

a second computing tier having a plurality of input computers, each input computer coupled to a respective local database of local data records, each local database replicated from the master database; and

a third computing tier having a remote portable computer, the portable computer being in communication with a select input computer for accessing local data records, the portable computer comprising:

   a CPU for controlling operation of the portable computer;

   an interface memory for storing software to control the CPU and to store temporarily at least one data set

each data set having multiple data fields for storing data values; and

a touch sensitive display screen for displaying at least a data I/O screen and for sensing contact by a user, the CPU defining multiple virtual regions upon the data I/O screen, each corresponding to a data field, the display screen sensing and informing the CPU of contact by the user within a virtual region, the display screen displaying within each virtual region a data value for the associated data field from a current data set for a current matter, the CPU identifying a virtual region contacted by the user and effecting an interface control associated therewith, and wherein the data I/O screen further displays multiple icons, each being uniquely associated with a data field.

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